



1. The Ermosa family passes down names, recipes, and even a curse from generation to generation. What does your family pass down? Do you plan to share it with future generations?
2. Though related, each character in the novel is unique. Whom do you identify with most and why?
3. Explore the relationships between Luna, Rachelika, and Becky over the course of their lives. Do you think if their mother Rosa had a sister she might have turned out differently? How so?
4. What do you make of Luna's obsession with Hollywood throughout her life? Is it a positive or negative influence? How do you feel it compares with the influence of pop culture today?
5. As Gabriela reveals, Ephraim's involvement in Matilda Franco's death remained a mystery even decades later. Do you think Ephraim murdered Matilda? Why or why not?
6. Do you understand Rosa's dependence on the Voice of Fighting Zion radio station, especially given that the British Mandate prohibited the broadcast? How do you cope with hardship or worry in your own life?
7. While the novel traces the link between generations of women in the Ermosa family, there are also important father-daughter relationships at play. Discuss these relationships, in particular those between Gabriel and Luna and David and Gabriela. How do these relationships affect the Ermosas, and how are they different from the female relationships in the novel?
8. What role do secrets play in the novel? What do the Ermosa family's secrets tell us about human nature? Are the Ermosa family's secrets ones you think you could keep silent about?

*The Beauty  
Queen of  
Jerusalem  
Discussion  
Questions*



9. How do you feel about Luna's relationship with Gidi? Do you empathize with her? Or do you feel her actions are unjustifiable?
10. Were you surprised that Gabriela fled to London? How do you think her moving so far away from her family affected her healing process?
11. By the end of the novel, Gabriela forgives Luna. How has your view of the beauty queen of Jerusalem evolved over the novel? Do you forgive her too?
12. What do you see in the future for Gabriela and Amnon? Will Gabriela finally be able to open her heart to him for the long term?
13. Is the curse ultimately a burden to the characters in the novel? Or do you think it's more complex than that?
14. What did you learn about Jerusalem's history and culture from reading the novel? How do you think the city might or might not be different today?